(c) to (e). No illegal exports of raw cane jaggery have taken place. However, some consignments of raw cane jaggery, mainly exported to U.K., which were issued Certificates of Oorigin under the Generalised System of Preferences Scheme by the Export Inspection Agency with the endorsement "Preferential Sugar Regulation No. (EEC) 2782/76" nave been debited by the European Union authorities to the preferential quota of sugar. Resolution of this issue has been taken up with the European Union authorities through our Embassy in Brussels and in this connection representatives of Indian Sugar General Industries Export and Import Corporation have also met the European Commission officials on 16.7.96.

Restructuring of IFCI

5694. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any consultancy organisation has made certain recommendations regarding the restructuring of Industrial Finance Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the consultancy;

(c) whether in accordance with the recommendations main regional offices of IFCI are going to be closed down; and

(d) if so, the number and details of such offices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd., (IFCI) has reported that the main recommendations made by the consultancy organisation relate to strategy for current business, strategy for new business, business process re-engineering, organisation review and information technology.

(c) No, Sir. However, as per consultant's recommendations, IFCI proposes to reorganise one regional office and five branch offices into satellite offices in the first phase.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Supply of Coal to M.P.

5695. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the annual consumption of coal in the various power stations of the Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board;

(b) the total quantity of coal supplied to these power stations during the last three years;

(c) the total shortage of coal in these power stations; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to supply the required quantity of coal to the power stations of the Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). The total demand of coal for the power stations of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB) as assessed by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and actual despatches of coal during each of the last three years are given below :

(In ooo tonnes)
Data Provisional

Year	Demand	Despatches	% Satisfaction
1993-94	11.640	10.831	93.05
1994-95	12.430	12,552	100.96
1995-96	12,625*	13.114	103.87

* Pro-rata demand to the agreed level of supplies to power sector by CIL.

The above table illustrates the fact that supply of coal to the power stations of MPEB have been going up steadily and has been maintained close to levels of demand of these stations.

(d) Supply of coal to power houses is accorded highest priority. Supply of coal to power houses is monitored regularly by Inter-Ministerial Group and corrective action taken wherever necessary to supply coal in order to sustain power generation.

[English]

Production of Oleo Pine Resin

5696. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of production and import of oleo pine resin during the last three years;

(b) whether the production of oleo pine resin has come down drastrically while the demand for its industrial use has increased significantly leading to increase in its import; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of oleo pine resin and make it available to cottage and small scale units at a cheaper rate in each State particularly in Maharashtra, J&K and Haryana ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). As per the Forestry Statistics India, 1995, published by ICFRE, Dehradun, the State-wise production of Oleo Pine Resin during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 are given below :

State/UT	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (in Metric Tonnes)
Arunachal Pradesh	309900	308615	288980
Himachal Pradesh	8669	10523	11422
Karnataka	—	19	3
Maharashtra	NA	NA	NA
Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
Orissa	NA	NA	NA
Punjab	198	225	237
Sikkim	NA	NA	NA
Uttar Pradesh	8637	—	—
Haryana	Nil	Nil	Nil

Extract from the Statistics of foreign trade giving the details of import of Oleo Pine Resin during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (Upto February) are given below (Source DGCIS, Calcutta) :

Period	Article	Qty. in Kg.	Value (Rs.)
1993-94	Pine Oleo Resin	Nil	Nil
1994-95	Pine Oleo Resin	17178297	272062250
1995-96 (upto Feb., 1996)	Pine Oleo Resin	9151675	188619764

(c) Representations have been received about the shortages of Oleo Pine Resin, and the import is allowed freely without any restrictions.

Role of Financial Institutions

5697. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to curtail the role of Financial Institutions by lowering their equity share; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Presumably, the question relates to the suggestion made recently by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for lowering the financial institutions' shareholding in a company to a maximum of 24 per cent.

No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

Trade Deficit due to Import of Consumer Goods

5698. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the trade deficit of the country in the first two years prior to the current financial year has grown by 180 per cent over the trade deficit registered in comparison to the corresponding period of last year;

(b) whether the Government have decided to import consumer goods in pursuance of obligations under World Trade Organisation is likely to further widen the trade deficit;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to curb the Trade deficit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) As per the available DGCIS data, the trade deficit in the first two years, prior to the current financial year was around US $ 2324 million in 1994-95 and US$ 4539 million in 1995-96.

The trade deficit in the first 4 months of the current financial year April-July 1996-97 (as per latest available data from DGCIS) is estimated at US $ 1082.31 million which is lower than the trade deficit at US $ 1525.89 million in the corresponding period of last year 1995-96.

(b) and (c). Under the current exim policy a few consumer goods are allowed to be imported freely or under the SIL route. Import liberalisation of consumer goods is a part of our strategy to gradually shift away from quantitative restrictions to tariff restrictions under the liberalised trade regime and is in tune with the international trade regime and is in tune with the international trade practice. Most developing countries no longer maintain import restrictions on consumer goods. Review of export and import policy and liberalisation is an ongoing process and changes in it are made as and when considered necessary.

(d) They try to reducing the trade deficit lies in increased exports. Export promotion is a continuous activity based on interaction with industry, trade and other export promotional institutions. Export promotion measures are teken by the Government through policies and promotional schemes. Measures taken to promote exports include simplification of export and import policy procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality and technology upgradation and efforts to actively involve the State Governments in export promotion.